



# News

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## **Secretary Kempthorne Names Ben Nageak as BLM Representative in Barrow**

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne today announced the appointment of Ben Nageak, Barrow resident and former mayor of the North Slope Borough, as the Bureau of Land Management representative in Barrow, Alaska.

"The establishment of this position fulfills a commitment we made to the people of the North Slope to have a fulltime presence in Barrow," said Secretary Kempthorne. The Secretary visited the North Slope in August.

Nageak, an Inupiat Eskimo, will serve as a Natural Resource Program Coordinator for the BLM's Arctic Field Office, which is based in Fairbanks and manages approximately 25 million acres of public land, including the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, on the North Slope. As the BLM's point of contact in Barrow, he will be the BLM liaison with local government officials, special interest groups, Alaska Native organizations on the North Slope, state government and other federal agencies.

Nageak's primary responsibility will be to help the BLM better understand the unique cultural, economic and natural resource issues of Alaska's North Slope and to coordinate with all interested constituents.

Nageak reported for duty December 10, 2006. Arrangements for office space in Barrow are pending and details will be released at a later time.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land — 258 million surface acres — than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including 83.5 million surface acres in Alaska. The Bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands.

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